

GALT TRAFFIC

AUGUST 2002

ART GALT 1912-2002

Arthur T. Galt, Jr., 90, "a pioneer who turned a farm into an airport" passed away Sunday July 21, 2002.

Art was born in Evanston on April 9, 1912. He received his law degree and practiced in his father's firm before WWII. Art was a member of the elite "Black Horse Troop" of the Illinois National Guard 106th Cavalry and when the U. S. entered the war, Art's outfit was activated. He was among the last of the mounted Cavalry, which soon abandoned horses for tanks and other motorized vehicles



Art returned from Europe a man changed by his wartime experiences, and in 1949 decided to abandon the practice of law, marry Vera Chizek Davis and move with her and her three children to the farm on Greenwood Road that became Galt Airport.

Art got into aviation in the early '50s. To avoid the long drive on the then two lanes Highway 51 to northern Wisconsin where he and Vera loved to camp and fish, Art hired a pilot and four place plane to fly them there. He got hooked on flying, began taking lessons and soon bought his first plane, a J-3 Cub. It wasn't long before another pilot and aircraft owner, seeing Art's Cub and landing strip, asked if he could keep his plane there at Art's farm, too. Little by little, Art's strip became Galt Airport.

As the plane population grew, Art and Vera's farmhouse kitchen became the weekend hangout for the expanding gang of Galt regulars. Art's sideline was becoming a business and it was soon time to build. The first building was a hangar on the north side of the east-west runway. This became the shop and maintenance hangar and was used as such until it burned in 1984. The office, restaurant and lounge building, with its attached row of hangars, were built next; and the parallel rows of pole-shed hangars

followed one at a time. The east-west grass runway was excavated and paved in several stages. Art installed the runway lights himself. The beacon came from West Chicago (DPA). It once was the first beacon on the "lighted airway" from MDW to MSP. (Another survivor is the one from Boscobel, WI now on display at EAA's Pioneer Airport in Oshkosh.)

After the first building (north of runway 927) burned, maintenance moved to its present location, which was originally a paint shop.

1992 was a tragic year for Art. Oldest son Charles died in June and his beloved "Butchie", Vera, passed away in September.

Art's daughters Barbara and Joan, live in Hawaii and Crystal Lake, respectively. Art and Vera also raised a boy and girl, refugees from Germany who he met while stationed there. Art once said, "We weren't allowed to talk to any German adults (during the occupation) so we talked to the kids. That's how I got to know them".

Until Art sold the airport in 1998, he was in most days, always with an interesting story, always accessible to all.

Art was able to pass a 3rd class physical and flew his classic "square tail" Cessna 172 well into his 80s.

His many friends will miss Art. If you weren't fortunate enough to have known him, there is an excellent biography of Art in Laurence Gonzales' *The Hero's Apprentice*, (The University of Arkansas Press, 1994). Another book by Gonzales, *One Zero Charlie, Adventures in Grass Roots Aviation* (Simon & Schuster, 1992, \$20.00) tells more about Art and the history of Galt Airport.



Art's desk (ca. 1995). Art believed a neat desk was a sign of a messed up mind!

sign

FLYERS & TIRES

The 3rd annual *FLYERS & TIRES* will be held at Galt Airport Saturday and Sunday August 10th and 11th. Although Galt Airport LLC is the sponsor of the event, EAA Chapter 932 has been offered the opportunity to operate the food concession as a Chapter fundraiser. Now is the time for all chapter members to show up, help the Chapter raise funds and support our host Airport and its FBO.

You will soon receive a request to fill a slot in the manpower roster – please answer in the affirmative! We'll see you there. It will be a lot of fun for all and, of course, working members and their families will not be charged admission or parking fees.

INTERESTED IN AEROBATICS?

By Mark Peteler



Mark Peteler's Zlin after performing in *Flyers & Tires 2001*

I'm trying to assemble a group of people that would like to go in on a new Decathlon. The reason is simply to get more pilots interested in aerobatics. As it is quite costly to buy a plane, it becomes more likely that a potential aerobatic pilot would become involved in an airplane purchase if it were done in concert with others, thereby reducing the overall cost per person.

As you know, the cost of flying prohibits many from purchasing an aircraft, and a club can be an efficient way for several pilots to claim ownership in a plane. I organized one about 10 years ago; they bought a new Decathlon and flew it for several years. There were about 5 members, of which 3 took up aerobatics. Ultimately, two of those four bought other aerobatic airplanes and continued to be active IAC members. The other members chose not to do aerobatics, but enjoyed the Decathlon as a good, inexpensive sport tail dragger.

Also, there may be another club forming for the purchase of a Citabria; not for aerobatics but just to own an inexpensive plane.

(You may call Mark at 262-248-8787 or e-mail him at: peteler@elknet.net – Ed.)

RAFAEL GONZALES NEW DIRECTOR

EAA Chapter 932 President Mark Krohn, in accordance with the Chapter by-laws, has appointed **Rafael Gonzales** to fill the Director's seat left vacant when John Wise moved out of state. Rafael will also take over John's job of Chapter Facilities and Properties Manager. Rafael has been an active and valued member for many years. Please give him your support.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES AT GALT

We welcome **Mike LeJeune**, who most of you already know, is a delight to deal with, as Galt Airports newly appointed General Manager of Operations. Mike has been around for a couple of years now and has made many friends in the Chapter and among the Galt "regulars".

New to 10C is **Bartley Hallinan**, who will take over the management of the shop as Galt's Director of Maintenance. Bartley brings much knowledge and experience to Galt. He has spent his entire career in aviation and, like Mike, is a pleasure to deal with.

FLY-IN CALENDAR

For information on Fly-Ins, aviation events and alerts to pilots, check the following web sites:

In Illinois: www.state.il.us/aero/index.html
In Wisconsin: www.dot.state.wi.us/dtid/boa
EAA: www.eaa.org
AOPA: www.aopa.org
EAA 932: www.eaa932.org
FAA: www.faa.gov

EAA 932 Membership Meetings 2nd Saturdays 10 am
EAA 932 Young Eagles 3rd Sundays 11-4 pm (Mar-Nov)



VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.EAA932.ORG

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